

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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S E C R E T USNATO 5177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DRAFT GUIDANCE TO AHG ON REDEFINITION OF GROUND
FORCES

REF: USNATO 5104

SUMMARY: SPC ON SEPTEMBER 23 NARROWED DIFFERENCES ON DRAFT GUIDANCE
TO AHG ON REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. FRG AGREED TO US
PROPOSAL ON TREATING THE COMMON CEILING. CANADA AGREED TO DROP ITS
SUGGESTED MODIFICATINS. NEXT SPEC DISCUSSION IS SEPTEMBER 26.
MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON REMAINING DIFFERENCES, WHICH DO NOT
APPEAR TO INVOLVE IMPORTANT DIVERGENCES ON SUBSTANCE. END SUMMARY

1. SPC ON SEPTEMBER 23 CONSIDERED DRAFT GUIDANCE TO AHG ON REDEFIN-
ITION OF GROUND FORCES. THE FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO PARAGRAPH NUMBERS
OF TEXT IN REF A.

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PARA 2 - FRG (HOYNCK) SUGGESTED REVISING FIRST SENTENCE TO
READ: "SUCH AN EXPLORATIN SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO HELP GAIN
WARSAW PACT ACCEPTANCE OF THE ALLIED FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE
REDUCTIONS." IN SECOND SENTENCE HE SUGGESTED INSERTING "ALTHOUGH

THIS WOULD NOT BE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE" IN PARENTHESES AFTER "PERSONNEL." UK (BAYLES) SUGGESTED INSERTING "AREAZ AFTER "NATIONAL" IN FOURTH LINE FROM END, AND CHANGING "WOULD" TO "MIGHT" IN SAME LINE.

PARA 2 BIS - SPC TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED US PROPOSAL TO MENTION COMMON CEILING IN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, AS NATO DID IN GUIDANCE ON PHASE LINKAGE, RATHER THAN FRG SUGGESTION TO PUT IT UNDER "CONDITIONS FOR ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NEW DEFINITION." PARA 2 BIS IS AS FOLLOWS: "ALLIED NEGOTIATORS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED AS OUTLINED IN SECTIONS II - V BELOW, BEARING IN MIND THAT ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON REACHING A SATISFACTORY FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT." NETHERLANDS REP (SIZOO) THOUGHT REMINDER OF COMMON CEILING WAS UNNECESSARY ANYWHERE IN DRAFT GUIDANCE, BUT AGREED TO THIS REMINDER SINCE IT ENABLED FRG TO DROP ITS PROPOSAL TO MAKE IT A CONDITION FOR ALLIED ACCEPTANCE.

PARA 3 - FRG JOINED BELGIUM AND CANADA IN SUPPORTING THE UK LANGUAGE PRESENTLY IN BRACKETS IN LAST SENTENCE. US ALONE SUPPORTS ORIGINAL US LANGUAGE.

PARA 4 B- CANADA (ROY) AGREED TO DELETION OF THE SECOND BRACKETED PHRASE.

PARA 4 D - NETHERLANDS CONSIDERS THIS SUB-PARA UNNECESSARY IN VIEW OF LANGUAGE ON FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES IN PARA 2. CANADA AGREED. HOWEVER, UK REP SAID SHE THOUGHT HER AUTHORITIES WOULD WANT TO SUPPORT PRESENT PARA 4 D.

PARA 5 A - CANADA AGREED TO DROP THE FOOTNOTE.

PARA 5 E - PER UK REQUEST, "FORMAL" NOW INSERTED BEFORE "DEFINITION" IN SECOND (UK) ALTERNATIVE. UK REP EXPLAINED THAT UK AUTHORITIES WANT THIS ALTERNATIVE, NOT ONLY TO ALLOW FOR POSSIBLE DEFINITIONS FOR NON-CIRCUMVENTION PURPOSES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE NEED MIGHT ARISE FOR DEFINITION OF NATIONAL AIR DEFENSE
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AS SEPARATE CATEGORY. ACTING CHAIRMAN OF MBFR WORKING GROUP (SMITH) ALSO THOUGHT LATTER NEED MIGHT ARISE. NETHERLANDS SUPPORTED UK SUGGESTION AS LEAVING OPTIONS OPEN. FRG ALSO AGREED. UK REP SUGGESTED A FOOTNOTE TO UK ALTERNATIVE THAT "SOME DELEGATIONS BELIEVE A DEFINITION OF OTHER THAN GROUND FORCES MIGHT BE NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE FOR PURPOSES OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION."

PARA 5 F - FRG REP REMINDED SPC HIS AUTHORITIES ARE NOT READY TO EXCLUDE CASE 2, AND THEREFORE DON'T LIKE FIRST (US) ALTERNATIVE WHICH SEEMED TO DO SO. HE THOUGHT FRG COULD AGREE TO SECOND (UK) ALTERNATIVE. UK REP SAID HER AUTHORITIES WANTED TO DROP THE FIRST PHRASE IN PARENTHESES IN UK ALTERNATIVE,

SINCE HELICOPTER UNITS WERE AN OBVIOUS EXCEPTION, IN VIEW OF THEIR INCLUSION IN AHG CASS 1, 2 AND 3. US REP SUPPORTED THE MENTION OF HELICPTER UNITS, TO MAKE THEIR EXCEPTION CLEAR, AND UK REP WILL REPORT BACK TO LONDON. UK REP ALSO SAID UK COULD DROP THE SECOND PHRASE IN PARENTHESES IF IT GAVE ANYONE ANY PROBLEM.

PARA 6 - CANADA AGREED TO DELETE THE BRACKETS, THUS MAINTAINING THE LANGUAGE ON RECIPROCITY.

2. ACTION REQUESTED. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON THE REMAINING POINTS AT ISSUE, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. NOW THAT FRG HAS DROPPED ITS PROPOSAL THAT AHG MAKE CLEAR TO WP THAT ACCEPTANCE OF COMMON CEILING IS A CONDITION OF AGREEMENT ON REDEFINITION, AND NOW THAT CANADA HAD DROPPED ITS SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS, THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES DO NOT APPEAR TO INVOLVE IMPORTANT DIVERGENCES ON SUBSTANCE. IF WASHINGTON CAN AUTHORIZE MISSION TO GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY ON THESE POINTS, SPC COULD APPROVE DRAFT GUIDANCE ON RECATEGORIZATION AT SEPTEMBER 26 MEETING. RUMSFELD

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